REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 are pending with claims 4 and 6 having been amended. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakurai et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,633,334) [herein Sakurai].

Claims 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai in view of Guidash et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,986,297) [herein Guidash].

Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being upatentable over Sakurai and Guidash, in view of Yang et al. ("An Integrated 800x600 CMOS Imaging System") [herein Yang].

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai in view of Yang.

Claims 12-14 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Sakurai as Sakurai fails to disclose "a source follower coupled between the floating sensing node and an output of the CMOS pixel," as recited in claim 1. The specification of the instant application states at page 6, lines 26-30 in reference to Fig. 5, "transistors 502 and 504 function together as a source follower and current source 506 functions as a load." The source of transistor 502 is connected to the drain of transistor 504, with the gate of transistor 502 attached to a floating sensing node and the drain of transistor 504 connected to the output node. The entirety of the source follower (both transistors) is coupled between the floating sensing node and the output.

Fig. 1 of Sakurai shows a floating sensing node connected to the gate of transistor MS14, and the drain of transistor MS14 is connected to the output line. The Examiner indicated that transistors MS14 and MS13 are the "source follower" recited in claim 1. However,

transistor MS13 is not coupled between the floating sensing node and the output line. The positioning of transistor MS14 between the floating sensing node and the output line prevents transistor MS13, and thus the source follower in its entirety, from being coupled between the floating sensing node and the output line. Therefore, Sakurai fails to disclose a source follower coupled between the floating sensing node and an output of the CMOS pixel. For at least this reason, claim 1 is patentable over Sakurai.

Claims 4 and 6 have been amended to include the limitations recited in claim 12 that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. For this reason, claim 4 and 6 should be allowable.

Regarding the Examiner's concerns regarding of inconsistent inventorship between the title sheet of the provisional and nonprovisional applications, Applicant respectfully submits that Oh-Bong Kwon was incorrectly listed as an applicant for inventorship in the provisional application, when in fact Do-Young Lee was the sole inventor. Oh-Bong Kwon was not involved in any inventive aspect of the invention as claimed. Therefore, only Do-Young Lee executed the declaration for the application. Oh-Bong Kwon never executed a declaration for the application. Applicant further respectfully submits that Do-Young Lee and Oh-Bong Kwon were both staff engineers working within the same division at the assignee, and that the provisional application for patent was incorrectly attributed to both Lee and Kwon. Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner there is no declaration requirement for provisional applications, and there is no inventorship claim in a provisional application. A signed and dated declaration defines inventorship, not the names listed on the title page of an application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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